

ACTION FOR THE ELDERLY CAMPAIGN

A call was made to Hackney residents to support the 'Action for the Elderly' campaign by way of a demonstration at Hackney Town Hall on Tuesday 25th September. A similar call was made for support for the Hackney Tenants Federation for the same night in their attempt to hold Hackney Council to its promise not to implement the Housing Finance Act. Both issues to be discussed in the Council Chamber.

The two organisations went to a great deal of work to prepare the campaigns. Posters were put up and in one case a member of 'Action for the Elderly' was captured by the police for flyposting.

NOCUT BACK

The great night came, what a show we had. Thousands of supporters. Petitions were collected, approx. 7½ thousand signatures. Police were on extra duty at the Town Hall. The Town Hall staff were on overtime to cope with the surge of people who wanted to demonstrate their feelings. Two things we knew. There was to be a cut back in the Home Help service. The people of Hackney wanted to say 'No Cut Back!'. They were very adamant too that the Council were not going to back out of their decision not to implement the Housing Finance Act. It would have meant increases in rent. The people were not going to stand by without registering their approval of this decision.

We had the signatures. We had the support of Hackney residents - in their armchairs! ALL WASTED because only a few turned up to register their feelings.

TONGUE IN CHEEK

No support for the organisations who organised these demonstrations. No support for the elderly and no support for the Housing effort. We will get our cut backs and we will pay our extra rent and I've no doubt that the Council Chamber looked out of the window and returned to the table to sign the papers required to cause so much hardship, not to mention the O.A.P.s and I've no doubt they had their tongues in their cheeks to stop from laughing.

There will be more demonstrations. There will be more disapproval in the future when the people of Hackney realise that the very apathy so apparent on this Tuesday evening is the O.K. sign for this kind of action by this -or indeed any other Council-to sign these agreements of hardship. If so many gave so much time unpaid to these causes then surely an hour of our time is a good investment.

APATHY NOW, WEEP LATER should be the slogan for the future. Keep those eyes dry later through action now. I wonder how many of the people of Hackney realise that even at election times we rarely see our M.P. or councillors. In other boroughs this is the time when they know they have to fight, this is the time when they have to explain their policies or lose their chance of election.

DICTATERSHIP

Not so in Hackney. All of us are working class, most of us think only 'labour', 'socialist' or 'communist'. Even so Labour knows its in the bag. We in Hackney must let them see that this is not the go ahead to do what they like, this is not the go ahead to be dictated to by a Tory government. We can only do this by letting those councillors and MP's know they can't do what the people are against. It is government of the people, by the people, for the people and not government by the so-called ruling classes. How better to bring these politicians out than by these demonstrations, by writing to them or even phoning them. Let us hear their views and perhaps see if we approve. If we don't then we must have the people we do approve of in these offices or make them change to more practical policies and not to a Tory dictatorship. By telling the Labour council what it should do, we the people, must show our disapproval of those policies which come from the present Tory government. If you write to a minister in parliament 9 times out of 10 he will write back and say go to your



Town Hall-it's nothing to do with us. Hell. Why do they stick their noses in the affairs of our borough if it's nothing to do with them?

I'm willing to get off my arse - are you? We only get the councillors we deserve. If we let them the wrong men will get on the council.
BILL BUTLER.

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Hackney People's Press has open working meetings at Centerprise, 34 Dalston Lane every Thursday at 7 p.m. If you are interested in seeing HPP succeed as a community paper then you should come if you can help in any way, write, draw, take pictures, sell, fold, design, help us organise. Everybody welcome.

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ACTION FOR THE ELDERLY CAMPAIGN (Continued)

This was the covering letter that went with the petition "Although we know that Hackney has the best home-help service in the country ("The return of the Inst. of Municipal Treasurers & Accountants indicates that our home help services is second to none in England" he said. "The number of people in Hackney receiving this aid is 5,344 -- over 300 more than the next best Inner London Borough -- and the number of hours devoted by home helps to the needy -- 819,430 in 1972 -- was nearly 25,000 more than the second highest total in Inner London), we are still aware that it still fails to meet the needs of the elderly and all others who are physically restricted. We deplore the fact that the Council's officers have been unable to predict the need for this service at all accurately for 1973/4 and the possible consequences that this could have for those that need it.

As ratepayers of Hackney borough, we urge the Council as our elected representatives, to find supplementary financial resources to ensure that the service may continue at the pre-June 1973 level for the rest of this financial year and to ensure that enough money is made available at the beginning of the next financial year to enable the Home-Help service to meet the needs of the elderly or the physically restricted in Hackney, in full.

Community Participation

Action for the elderly (Hackney) are a newly formed group whose aims are to achieve as high a degree of community participation i.e. at street and block of flats level as possible by drawing the attention of the people of Hackney to the problems and needs of the 42,000 pensioners living in their midsts, of these 42,000 old people, many suffer because of ill health, -- bad housing conditions and loneliness. One of the most important things we provide for this group of people is the Home-Help Service.

A Home-Help is not just a pleasant lady who helps out with a few hours of cleaning. Only too often she is the only visitor seen from one week to another, the only person willing to help with the vital tasks like shopping, collecting pensions and prescriptions, cooking a hot meal and above all the only source of help when there is a real emergency. IN JUNE THIS YEAR THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ANNOUNCED THAT DUE TO A MISCALCULATION IN THE FINANCES THIS SERVICE WAS TO BE CUT.

- *1. NO MORE HOME HELPS TO BE RECRUITED.
- *2. THE HOME HELPS WHO LEAVE NOT TO BE REPLACED.
- *3. HOURS TO BE CUT.



What does this mean?

The people who normally receive this service are only a small proportion of our old people. In general they are the extreme cases -- 60% of them are over 75 years old, 25% are totally housebound, 10% are chronically sick.

The OLD, the SICK and the disabled, these are the people who are suffering in this patch up attempt to balance the Council's books. DANGER? ISOLATION and the FEAR OF HAVING TO GO INTO AN OLD PEOPLES' HOME, these are the inevitable results of this cut. We aim to take action in the following areas: HOUSING: By pressuring the Council by notifying them of situations where the elderly are in unsuitable accommodation i.e. top floors of flats, too large a flat or repairs not being done. By creating a mutual exchange clearing house and to make lists available at street or block of flats level. Many OAPs occupy flats too large for them whereas there are many young families who are overcrowded.

EXTENSION OF EXISTING SERVICES: By notifying the Social Services of those in need of meals on wheels, home helps, and of the need for local luncheon clubs and the provision of transport. Also by demanding that at public buildings suitable for the purpose be opened for the use of the OAPs i.e. somewhere warm to go, or where food can be easily prepared.

By publicising atrocities such as the present attempt of one dept. of the Social services of cutting down expenses by withdrawing some of the Home Help services and taking direct action.

LAWS RELATING TO BENEFITS: By leasing with other groups at National Level, to press for changes in law and benefit level.

By giving advice to the elderly about their entitlements. (The Pensioners Action Group is already engaged in trying to raise benefits at a national level.)

ADVICE: By making available direct to OAPs information concerning their rights and ways of tackling problems e.g. by running a course in conjunction with Citizens Rights, and OAPs clubs. By making information available to intermediate groups or individuals at street and estate level in the form of handbooks or courses so that they may pass this on to the OAPs in their immediate localities.

HELP: Thousands of elderly people are imprisoned in their own homes due to ill health such as arthritis, heart diseases etc. making them dependent on others for company and material needs.

Participation in a project such as a good neighbourly scheme will provide: a) relief in the isolation of the elderly. b) opportunity to advise them re their rights. c) system of feedback of information which will create a more realistic picture of the underlying needs in this sector of the community.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: 1) If you know of any elderly person who is suffering because of this, let us know about it. 2) Write to your councillor at the town hall to ask him what he intends to do about this. If you can help please contact Barbara Payne, 52 Samuel Hse, Clarrissa St., E.8. 249-4955, OR Anne Stewart, c/o Centerprise, 34 Dalston Lane E.8. 254 1620.



A home is like air - essential for life

3

There are 10,000 homeless families in London - that's been a steady figure for the last ten years.

There are at least 1,000 homeless in Hackney - and the Council owns 600 empty houses being left to rot.

We think it's about time that people started understanding that rent rises, homelessness, overcrowding and bad conditions are all part of the same parcel.

And what's the parcel? Government housing policy, neatly bundled up by the local Labour councillors who implement it. It's called the Housing Finance Act.

This Act doesn't mean rent increases alone. It means an end of government housing subsidies to local councils. So when Hackney Council moan about not being able to build any more housing because of increased labour and building material costs, what they really mean is: they're not getting money from the government any more and can't compete with the private building contractors.

With no subsidies, the cost of council housing has to ALL come out of the rents and rates we pay.

But 65% of council rent and rates goes into paying back the interest

on loans from the big City bankers and financiers. The high rate of interest means that for every £1 of rent the Council receives from its tenants, it repays 80p, 90p or even £1 in interest.

As the rents go up, more and more people get into rent arrears, and more and more people are being boot-ed out. Hence the countless empty flats on Council estates. Conditions are becoming increasingly worse and the Council has called a virtual halt on repairs and improvements. More and more people are squatting in newly converted places out of desperation.

They are doing this as a result of the scandalous housing situation and as a protest against it. Frozen wages and rising rents mean that many people can no longer afford to pay rent.

For these reasons, squatters cannot and will not pay rent. Neither are they prepared to suffer homelessness because the inefficient bureaucratic procedures of the welfare state mean that things like renovating houses never get done quickly enough. So we have taken matters into our own hands.

This has frightened the government (both central and local), and they have

radically changed the law so that they can evict dissidents. Lord Denning recently ruled that a landlord can forcibly evict people without a possession order.

The situation is going from bad to worse and the Council itself seems to be losing control. The Housing department sends families to the welfare and the welfare send them to the squatters and then the Council evicts the squatters and sends them back to the welfare.

While everyone from Alderman Lou Sherman to the Communist Party expresses their concern at the gravity of the housing crisis no-one seems to be able to do anything effective about it. In the headline of our last issue noting Hackney Council's decision not to implement the 50p rise due under the Housing Finance Act this October, we made the comment "But will they keep their promise?"

Now we learn that the Council is to have another meeting to 'reconsider' its decision to rebel against the Tory Government. It would be very surprising if the Council did not break its promise by

deciding, after all, to implement the rent increase. Tory leader! Joe Lobenstein predicted that the new meeting was likely to be the biggest climb down by Hackney Council for many years. We can only repeat what we said in our last issue:

"The main thing now is to put as much pressure as possible on the council to stick by its word. Tenants' groups must organise to show they are willing to back their councillors to the hilt. If Hackney council does eventually decide to back down, it must be shown for the broken promise it really is."

And if the promise is broken then perhaps it is time for people to organise so as to take the situation into their own hands, to think seriously of organising mass rent strikes and mass squats.

In the meantime many houses remain empty as they have done for months or years; we are concerned to keep all available houses occupied while there are so many homeless people. We want housing for all at a price everyone can afford, and we want no evictions without the provision of alternative accommodation. A home is like air; essential for everyone.

Furnished Tenants: how to get rebates

As from last May, rent allowances have been available, at last, to some tenants of furnished accommodation. But before you applaud the generosity of the government, read on.

The details of Hackney's scheme are set out on a pink sheet, which you can get from most public libraries or the Housing Department, along with an application form. If you fill in the form you will have to state not only exactly who lives in your house or flat but a load of figures on your income from all sources. All this is understandable when you see how complicated the Council's calculations are.

But the most important thing is that because of the strict rules on qualifications, the majority of furnished tenants, including most people under 30, don't qualify for an allowance in the first place.

Do you qualify?

Even so, you may be eligible if you come into one of the following categories:

1) You have one or more children in full-time education

living with you.

2) You are single and over 30.

3) You are married with no children, and you or your husband/wife is over 30.

4) You or your husband/wife is an old aged pensioner, or you have an OAP living with you.

5) You, or someone living with you, is chronically sick or disabled.

Groups 1 and 4 qualify after living in Hackney for three months, the other groups after six months.

The local authority can also use its discretion, ignore all the above conditions, and grant an allowance if they think you will suffer 'hardship'. However, each case is 'considered on its own merits'.

How it's worked out

Calculation of your rent allowance now goes into the realms of bureaucratic equations. The basic figures the Council works on are the Needs Allowance, your Weekly Income and your Rent.

The Needs Allowance can be seen in the following table:

For a single person £14
For a married couple with no children...£18.25
For a married couple or single person with no children...£18.25
For each extra child after the first....£2.75

N.B. There are slightly higher figures for registered handicapped people.

Your Weekly Income is based on the gross amount before any deductions. In most cases it's averaged out over the previous six months.

Your Rent is based on what the Council reckons the fair rent would be if the flat was unfurnished, plus 25%. So if your rent is actually £10, the Council's fair rent is £6, the figure for their purposes would be £7.50.

After this the calculations get so complicated that it's almost impossible to explain. But the Council does give examples of what the allowance might be.

If your needs allowance (for a husband and wife and three children) is £26.50, your weekly income £25 and the eligible rent £6.25, your actual allowance would be £4.13. If you haven't got any children, or you're single, it will obviously be a lot less. Also, if your income is more than your needs allowance, you don't do so well.

A rough guide to the

maximum you can earn and still be entitled to an allowance is £31 for a single person, £35 for a married couple, £41 for a married couple with two children. This is only a guide though, and it could be that you are entitled to a rent allowance even if your income is slightly higher than the figures above. You can only find out by applying.

A few catches

Several other things to remember:

1) Any allowance is reduced if you have a lodger or children over 18 not at school living with you.

2) No allowance is paid if it works out under 20p.

3) The maximum is £8

4) You have to re-apply every six months.

Obviously the system is unfair. But since it's there, you might as well make use of it. If you come into the categories listed at the beginning of this article or you feel that the rent you pay takes up too much of your weekly income, APPLY.

You can get more information from the Town Hall in Mare Street or come along to the housing advice session every Thursday at 7 p.m. in Centerprise.

Why I Like Living on Haggerston

When I first moved to Haggerston Estate I was very glad to have a place to live in, after being evicted, especially a council flat because all my housing problems and maintenance would be quickly done. My wife was just about to have her second baby, the flat was supposed to be ready in June but I received the key in September but couldn't move in until October because of broken windows, a hole in the bath and no hot water at all, a leaking gas pipe and the only form of electricity was the lights and two bare wires sticking out of the wall in the sitting-room, the floors were impaled with glass so I had to cover the whole house with hardboard and even after June, my wife, had had Steffan we had to live in a friend's house on the estate. All the galvanised on the windows had to be taken off by myself and the galvanised on the back windows we had to leave on for about three weeks to stop people breaking in because there was no catches.

PROBLEMS

During this time I had been going and phoning the G.L.C. constantly to no avail. But talking to other people on the estate and especially in Richardson House I found they all had similar problems or even worse complaints such as dampness, condensation, leaking roofs, blocked waste pipes and ground floor flats constantly being flooded with sewage from the baths and lavatories.

I felt really pissed off with the G.L.C. and the depressed atmosphere of the people on the estate and the kids with nowhere to play except in pools of sewage and smashing windows and setting fire to the waste chutes and the only time people seemed to talk to each other was when they

were fighting, the pigs were in the estate 24 hours a day sneaking through it at night and roaring through it by day.

One evening I had a sewage flood and had to go up to the neighbours to tell them to stop using water as I was being flooded out and I was surprised to find everybody willing and friendly and even being invited in for tea and talking to some of them I found they had exactly the same complaints against the estate and the G.L.C. as I had and they didn't know many other people on the estate because of the cold atmosphere and the feeling of hostility towards them which made them afraid of each other.

GET TOGETHER

I remember thinking then (which was October) it would be great if people could get to know each other a bit more and I'm sure the atmosphere would have changed because the only regular visitors people seemed to get was pigs and postmen.

The estate seemed to me like Pentonville with the roof taken off. A few days later Peter Chambers, the community worker, came to the door asking if I would join a tenants' meeting. That was the first time I saw Peter. Anyway I went to the meeting and started talking to tenants completely unknown to me. Peter had a flat and had everything organised. We had a few more meetings and Mrs. Williams came from the G.L.C. to find out about our complaints and we argued with her about the estate and I started to feel part of the estate and not hate it so much and Peter helped me a lot with my housing problems.

THE SHOP

Then Pete suggested starting a shop which he ran by himself, the a few kids started to help. He got food direct from a cash and carry that was al-

ready ordered and delivered it to the houses. This did not work so he decided to make it into a proper shop in his flat and open it on Friday evenings and Centreprise lent him a van to get the stuff but he didn't have a licence so I started to help by driving the van etc as I am unemployed.

RENT STRIKE

In December I still had not paid any rent and the G.L.C. sent me a bill for £50 which I was determined not to pay because of the money I had had to pay out on the things the G.L.C. had not done. A few Richardson tenants, Peter and myself started to have a few meetings about conditions in Richardson House and in January we had a big meeting to discuss what to do.

Social workers, health visitors, reporters and the M.P. came. Jesus, I thought it was a really big deal to have an M.P. and reporters there, until we decided to go on rent strike and the M.P. Ron Brown stood up and tried to break up our rent strike. The Hackney Gazette gave us a front page with a picture and the posters read 'Rent Strike in Haggerston'.

RON BROWN

A couple of days later Ron Brown M.P., the Eastern District Officer and the Director of Housing visited the rent stricken flats and we told them if nothing was done within a fortnight we would terrorise them in the Town Hall and the G.L.C. offices. Many reporters and cameramen came out to make stories for the papers and magazines and the place seemed in uproar.

I knew many people now and everybody in Richardson House and we were all united and the atmosphere on the estate seemed better and I started to enjoy living there and working with Pete has given me a lot more confidence and I have been learn-

ing a hell of a lot from both the tenants and Peter. On the 12th. February we had a meeting and everybody was told they were going to be rehoused by the G.L.C. as soon as possible and up like a cork pops - guess who - Ron Brown to claim the whole damn thing to be his personal victory.

Many other things have happened since then on the estate and today I am being rehoused but I don't want to go because I have lived in several different places like Cornwall and Blackheath where the people in these places just don't want to know you and never will, but in Haggerston there is a growing community spirit which for the first time in my life I felt part of, and people there are human and will take you for what you are. They will also say what they think and you know where you stand, which I like and I feel there has been a remarkable change in the atmosphere in Haggerston and I am so keen now that I will be working on the estate with the kids all through their summer holidays and I am also applying for a youth and community work course at Goldsmiths.

Since sending us this article, Chris Wotton has left Haggerston, and he writes from slough: 'The only reason I agreed to live out here is because of the kids. I and my wife would be back in Haggerston like a shot if they were about 13 or 14. But they are only babies

yet and this kind of environment in Haggerston where there are no facilities at all for kids smashes their souls to fuck. There is probably not enough that my wife and I could do to undo the damage that a place like Haggerston and the surrounding schools would do to them. Some kids make it but I don't want to take the risk. We still miss the people and go back there as often as we can.'

DOCKLAND PROTEST



Angry people and action groups in East London joined together on Sept. 19 to organise a day-long protest against the opening of an £8 million luxury hotel in Tower Hamlets. Militant social workers, local tenants and squatters maintained pickets around the hotel, carrying banners reading 'People before profit' and 'Homes before Hotels'. Street shows and singing took place while the hotel was officially opened.

At 6.30 pm about 350 people from the local estates and other parts of London gathered near the hotel. They then marched to the hotel with more banners and chants. A decorated barge from the Isle of Dogs action group steamed up to Tower Bridge and moored almost at the hotel doorstep. A meeting was held there with speakers from the Joint Dockland Action Group, squatters and mothers denouncing Tower Hamlets Council for selling out to speculators.

The 'celebration' of the last hotel in Tower Hamlets continued with a picket outside the hotel's main entrance. Eventually two people were arrested and charged with criminal damage to a shrub - for plucking a red pepper from the ornamental plants in the forecourt.

East End Dockland Action Group, 192, Cable Street,

W.E.A. Up Against The Bureaucracy

Welfare Rights course 'unsuitable'

At the extraordinary general meeting of the Hackney Workers Educational Association (extraordinary because according to the Central WEA Annual General Meetings can only be held in May) on Wednesday Sept 26th. Stuart Weir the outgoing chairman gave a run-down on the existing antagonism between the HWEA and the Central WEA. Central WEA, in the person of Mr. Church, secretary of the WEA London District, object to Hackney WEA's attempt to run alive, local, sometimes politically orientated projects created and directed by interested local people (as opposed to academic experts imported from the universities etc.) Specifically, Mr. Church objected to a Civil Liberties and Welfare Rights course on the grounds that these are unsuitable subjects for the WEA to deal with (i.e. they are relevant to peoples' lives and problems and not mere pastimes.)

Liberties

We discovered recently that the central WEA are organising a series of Civil Liberties courses with the National Council for Civil Liberties - where they are in control of what's happening its o.k. They didn't invite us to be part of the scheme however. Church objected to our music project (where speakers included George Melly and John Peel) apparently on the grounds that it was frivolous. In fact the follow up to the highly successful Music Project - the music workshop - Hoxton Hall, Tuesdays, 8pm. - was inspired by a

very successful WEA project in Birmingham on folk song and the pop arts, under Charles Parker. For our part we were very lax about book keeping though we were never prompted to be more efficient, and in truth this was just a peg on which the London WEA could hang its disapproval. The feeling of the meeting was that the ideas that formed the basis of the Hackney WEA at its foundation still held - we want people locally to suggest, organise and run courses, projects

and workshops, which are meaningful to their lives. Why should we call in a college lecturer with a B.Sc in social administration to teach a 'History of the Welfare State' course when we could use Ted Willmot's wealth of knowledge and experience which he acquired while working many years in Social Security.

But in the eyes of the London WEA Ted is not an expert (he has no paper qualifications) and consequently they refuse to recognise both him and his course.

Successful

It was commented too that those HWEA courses which had not been successful were in each case those run by non Hackney people. For a short while we debated the possibility of cutting adrift from the WEA and becoming an independent educational organisation, but the feeling of the meeting was that one of our aims should be to revive a real tradition of working peoples education. Other advantages of remaining inside the WEA are that in theory at any rate, we should be able to get financial assistance for publicity, tutors etc. and that if the National WEA acts on the Russell Committee proposals they should become increasingly sympathetic to our proposals.

Efficient

Several people agreed to attend a meeting with Mr. Church shortly, in an attempt at reconciliation - we'll become more efficient at book keeping (registers, reports etc) and they must accept our type of projects. Any publicity the HWEA can get would be to our advantage since the National WEAs attitude, or at least Mr. Church's is very reactionary and at odds with the Russell Report. Ken Worpole (secretary), and Albert Cullington (chairman) were unanimously elected as officers for the coming year, everyone present at the meeting should constitute the committee together with one or two representatives from each of the forthcoming courses, and, indeed anybody interested enough to come along to committee

meetings which would be held every 5 or 6 weeks (the next one, to be held in the WEA room above the childrens bookshop at 66a Dalston Lane, is at 5.30 on Wednesday October 24th)

Activities

There followed a discussion with Chris Searle on the problems of relating the activities of the HWEA with the needs of the local community, and of coordinating the HWEAs activities with those of other organisations active in the area such as local Trade Union branches, tenants associations, the schools, and the local NUT branch. It was hoped that we might seek financial assistance from the NUT. There were plenty of other suggestions on

publicity: a stall on the Ridley Rd. market with duplicated information; speakers corners in parks; street corner speaking; door to door publicity with the HPP, leaflets in the HPP; publicity at the local cinemas when there might be a tie up between the subject matter of a film and a WEA course. Many of these proposals incorporate the idea of moving out to where people are.

For the future it was suggested that the WEA run courses relevant to the problems of local people in their work situations to inform them more fully of their rights and that a course should also be run based on the problems of a specific redevelopment area in Hackney so as to give the people involved the information they would need to be able to organise effectively to make sure that their interests would be taken into consideration in the formulation of plans for the area.

"HANDOUTS WILL ONLY DESTROY YOUR INCENTIVE TO WORK..."



SHATTERING THE SCHOOL DREAM 5

If all goes well, this year will see more of what the press calls 'pupil power'. The decision by the National Union of School Students (NUSS) to fight a campaign will show headmasters/mistresses that instead of the movement being smashed or collapsing after the Schools Action Union fiasco, it has grown in strength.

The campaign will be fought on the issues of democracy in school, the right of NUSS to organise and negotiate, full comprehensive education, and an end to all secret files.

The question of democracy in school has been debated for some time, mostly around School Councils, which only function as a means to divide and rule. Since most of them have no powers, and only function as an advisory body to the head (spending most of the time talking about things like desk locks), they have become to most school students like local government - just part of the system, surrounded by apathy. Real student participation will come about when School Councils have real power - power to be able to remove rules and regulations which have turned education into indoctrination.

NUSS is just like any other union. So it's expected that our members, like the NUT, will be able to negotiate for better conditions etc. Unfortunately, most heads think otherwise and consider it treason for school students to belong to any body. Threats and harassment made against school students are just like those made against early trade unions. For this reason it is important that we get the support of other trade unions. The more support we have, the quicker we shall win.

The growth and support for NUSS in Hackney shows that working class students are no longer going to allow themselves to become 'second-class citizens'. Headmasters all over the country live in a fantasy world of exam results, good deeds and winning sports matches. In the near future we plan to shatter that dream, and show them what we think of their education. The time is quickly approaching when heads will find their privileged position challenged.

If you want to join NUSS write to 3, Endsleigh Street, WCI or contact Hackney NUSS at Centerprise.



Dalston Photos

Photo Workshop

These photographs were taken by five different people and formed part of an exhibition put on last month by Centerprise Photo Workshop. The group revolves around a darkroom, which is available for anyone to use, and a wish to avoid the usual isolation of taking photos. From putting on the exhibition, which involved weekly meetings both for discussion and the practical side, we decided that a more specific basis was needed for future projects.

Photography is a useful tool, which we want to make more available, not only to record events but to draw attention to lack of play facilities or housing conditions for example. Also it can be used as evidence in court cases and in many other ways. We hope that local people and groups will use this facility we offer. If you want photos taken contact us and we will try to find one or two people from the photo-group to help.

To contact us, call Harriet at 254-1620 or Shiela at 254-7022.

Dalston Junction station

Snack stall, Ridley Road



At Dalston Lane traffic lights.



View from Queensbridge Road to Woodland Street.



Reggae shop, Ridley Road.



Looking towards Holly Street Estate.



After Six

6 Tyssen Road. N16. 249-2847. Information service for the homeless. They try to find accomadation on a short-term basis. Ring after 6pm.

HACKNEY MENTAL PATIENTS UNION

The MPU now has a house in Hackney at 37 Mayola Rd E5. The house will be lived in and run entirely by mental patients and ex-patients. We would like to contact anyone interested in organising this branch of the MPU and also anyone who can help with transport, furniture, cleaning etc. Enquiries: 986-5251.

Committee for a Better Environment

Meets in the lounge of Queen Mary Hostel, by Hoxton Hall, 128 Hoxton St. at 7.45pm on the third Wed. of every month.

HACKNEY W.E.A.

A PEOPLES AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF HACKNEY.

Aproject using taperecorders to collect people's memories of life in Hackney earlier in this century, with a view to publishing material collected through the Centerprise publishing project.

Course starts Wednesday 19th September. Meetings every alternate Wednesday at 8pm at Centerprise, 34 Dalston Lane, E.8.

MUSIC WORKSHOP.

Collective performance, creation, enjoyment and discussion of contemporary and traditional music. We hope to have John Peel and Bob Harris as guest speakers at the workshop during the September. Meetings every Tuesday from September 4th at 7.30 in Hoxton Hall. Hoxton St., N.1.

VIDEO WORKSHOP.

A basic course in the uses of portable video equipment involving the making of experimental tapes and programmes in various fields Course starts October 3rd.. Meetings every Wednesday 7pm at Shoreditch School, Falkirk St., N.1.

CITIZENS RIGHTS.

A course on peoples rights in relation to local and central govt in the areas of housing, welfare, social security, rents, security of tenure etc. Course starts October 4th. Meetings every Thursday, 7.30 Centerprise, 34, Dalston Lane, E.8.

EXPERIMENTAL WRITING PROJECT.

Aproject exploring the possibilities and difficulties of different types of writing and reading - autobiographical, short stories, children's writing, with a view to publishing work through the Centerprise Publishing Project. Course starts 4th October. Meetings every Thursday 7.30. pm, Dalston Lane Library.*

Hackney Claimants Union

For help in all matters concerning social security. Meetings; 12.30 Wed. Office 2-5 Tues & Thu at Centerprise.

Homerton Claimants Union

5 Templemead House, Kingsmead Estate Centre, Homerton Rd, E9. 985-3987. Meetings Mon. 7.30-10pm Office Mon & Fri 10.30-12am.



Legal Aid and Advice If you need it just ask

Free aid and advice on housing legal and social security. Thursday 6.30-7.30 at Centerprise.

Committee Against Racism

The committee is a delegate body to which individual members can affiliate. Now more than three years old the monthly meetings are held at 7.45pm on the first Wednesday of every month at Community Relations Office, Mare St.

CAREERS ADVICE

Local trade unionists and ex-members of Her Majesty's Forces in the north east of England have produced a leaflet urging all school leavers, students and unemployed young people who might be tempted to join the armed forces to "think again".

The leaflet reads:

"You will have to learn to obey orders-any orders. If you are ordered to shoot you will have to shoot - even if it means the death of innocent women and children as has happened recently in Northern Ireland. Can you really take sides and kill to order? Much of the equipment and many of the tactics you will be trained to use in the forces are intended for use against the people of this country when they are wanted. They will be used against so called 'trouble-makers'- trade unionists, strikers, pickets and students - people like yourself and your friends. By joining the forces you will be helping to develop the tactics

and weapons, the experimental guns and tanks and gas, which will be available for use against workers here.

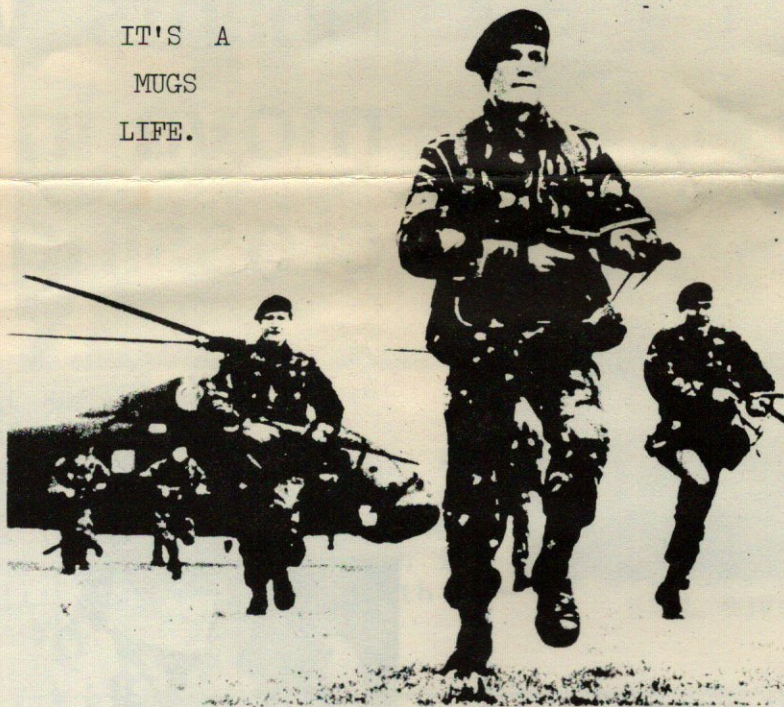
Remember there are alternatives to joining the forces - even if you cannot get a job. If you feel that undue pressure is being placed on you to join the forces or to take a rotten dead end job, contact your local trades union council. If you feel that you are being done out of dole or SS benefits, contact your local claimants union. These organisations will help you to resist pressure and to fight back. This is where your fight is. Remember the army's interests are not your interests or the interests of the working class.

Let the bosses and politicians do their own dirty work. Their life is not at risk. Yours will be! Join the growing body of opinion for the withdrawal of troops from Northern

Ireland. If you are thinking of joining the forces..... think again!"

ARE YOU DOING YOUR BIT FOR HACKNEY ??

IT'S A
MUGS
LIFE.



The works difficult and it can be dangerous. As a Peoples Press helper you'll train for everything from libel to incitement. And we'll give you lots of responsibility. If you can get 30 men through a 6 inch hole, twelve feet up, without them touching the ground, then you're no good to us. But if you can write, draw, etc. anything sensible, come along. You'll be trained to use some really heavy hardware (ie. typewriter), and we won't pay you. You'll have round you some of the best trained, and hardest community press operators in the country. They'll look up to you (or down depending on your height). We won't give you a sub-machine gun to waltz down the High St. with, but you can try selling papers. If you'd rather lead than follow. If you think this is the kind of life for you. Come along and one of our staff will tell you about such practicable things as haircuts.

Open meetings every Thursday at 8.0 at Centreprise. Come along, you won't regret it.

PEOPLES PRESS NEEDS HELPERS.

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

A twenty-four hour telephone service. Friendly people who are always ready to listen, whatever your problem - great or small. If they cannot help you they will find people that can help and will make sure that you get help. 27 Hackney Grove, E8 3NH. PHONE: 986-2233

PHOTO COPYING

Facilities available at 66a Dalston Lane.

DUPLICATING

Facilities available at 34 Dalston Lane.

HOW PEOPLE LEARN TO READ

John Welsch, Staff Inspector of English for the ILEA is going to give 4 workshops on ways in which people are taught to read, at Centerprise on Tuesday evenings (6.30-7.30) starting on Oct. 30. Mr. Welsch is primarily concerned with the problems adults who cannot read face, and is involved in literacy projects in Deptford. Recently he gave a similar course at Holland Park comprehensive school to parents who wanted to help adolescents.

The course arose because a number of people offering to teach people were understandably reluctant to start without an introduction to the kinds of problems they might encounter; possible ways through them; recommended books and other teaching materials. It is open to anyone, whether they want to help their own children, or as is hoped, decide to volunteer to teach someone in their neighbourhood who wants to learn.

If any teachers are interested in coming along they would be very welcome as it would be good to have some people present already in teaching and who might be willing to help in a supervisory way once the course is over, so that tutors have a more experienced person to refer to as they progress with their student.

Would anyone interested in taking the course contact the Learning Exchange, 66a Dalston Lane, E8 (254 7514), so we know how many to expect.

LEARNING EXCHANGE SOS - Someone needed to teach electric bass guitar; spelling; grammar and punctuation; German.

A campaign is being waged by the Kerridge and Hawthorne Tenants Association for a zebra crossing on the Balls Pond Road, with a bleeper to assist blind people. In spite of the fact that the road is used continually by children and old people, there is no safe place to cross the Balls Pond Road between its junction with Southgate Road at one end and Dalston Junction at the other.

Local residents consider that their children are in danger crossing this road and they want to see a crossing close to the gates of de Beauvoir school. The danger of this road is illustrated by the recent accident to Mrs. Hubbard - the children's lollypop lady - who was knocked down, sustaining chest injuries, a fractured knee and a resultant nervous stutter.



DANGER

After writing to Islington Council and receiving no satisfactory results, Terry Hemstead, the association's executive officer wrote to Hackney Council, who are in fact responsible for the road, pointing out the lack of a lollypop lady (recently injured), the inadequacy of police supervision of children crossing, and the clear need for a zebra crossing.

CAMPAIGN

In the meantime the tenants began to mount a campaign to block Balls Pond Road until their demands were met. The chaos these demonstrations caused - diversions, buses rerouted and retimed, jams - illustrated very well precisely the point the tenants were trying to make: Balls Pond Road is a very busy, rather narrow and potentially dangerous road badly in need of a safer crossing.

On September 7th., following one of these demonstrations, there was a meeting at the association's community hall, at which Mr. Hart, Hackney Traffic Engineer, conceded that there was a good case for a crossing but pointed out that the procedure involved would take six months. The tenants felt that this was quite unacceptable and decided to continue their campaign; at this Mr. Hart backed down a little further and agreed to try to work more quickly, though he still felt that it would be a minimum of 3 months.

THE POLICE

The police, in the person of Mr. Harding, Chief Inspector of Police (Public Relations Officer, G Division) were asked to provide adequate police supervision outside de Beauvoir School between the hours of 8.30-9.45, 12-2, and 3.30-4.30. Mr. Harding said that he would see what he could do although he is not directly responsible for these matters.

Tenants win first move in pedestrian crossing fight



DIRECT ACTION

Following this meeting, Terry received a letter from Mr. Coulter, Director of Technical and Contract Services, saying that the matter was receiving urgent attention. On the following morning Terry warned Mr. Harding that if emergency measures weren't carried out very promptly, then the tenants would block the road again that evening. Within 2 hours children crossing signs, bollards and flash-lamps were erected - when the Council's convenience is threatened, somehow they manage to scrap the 6 months procedure!



THE DEMO & THE TRAFIC JAM



Police supervision of children crossing is not as yet adequate. The final decision about this zebra crossing lies with the G.L.C. who meet on October 2nd. and who decide on the basis of a report and statistics from Hackney Council. Prior to this meeting, Hackney will negotiate with police and G.L.C. representatives.

The local people have an excellent case - even Hackney Council admit that it is substantial. The car count (2378 per day) and investigations confirm this. (The irony is that, in their counting of pedestrians crossing the road, the officials do not count children under 12 'because they just run backwards and forwards across the road for no good reason.')

The people have a great deal of determination and enthusiasm to make the Balls Pond Road a safer road for everyone.

NADINE CARTNER

